



MARKET DRAYTON URBAN DISTRICT

COUNCIL.



INTERIM REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE

MARKET DRAYTON URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR 1943.

Once again, the Ministry of Health has required that the Report on the Health of the District shall be presented in an abbreviated interim form.

The year was epidemic for measles in the district in common with neighbouring areas and a large number of cases were notified. This outbreak accounted for two deaths while whooping cough which, although double the number of cases reported in 1942 occurred, was present in small numbers only gave rise to a similar number of fatal cases.

It was satisfactory to note that there was a fall to one fifth of reported cases of diphtheria and although scarlet fever again presented itself the number of cases was limited.

Comparative tables of notified cases of infectious disease together with deaths are given in that section of this report.

Vital Statistics show that the Birth Rate is considerably higher than that of the Country while the Death Rate is slightly lower.

Tuberculosis returns show that there has been little change in the total number of cases on the register. During the Year no new cases were added and the death returns show a rate considerably lower than for the Country generally.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area are dealt with in the relevant sections of the report. The most outstanding deficiency would appear to be in houses and in their repair but as this is well known to the Authority and as plans are being made to deal with this problem as soon as conditions will permit for the present there is no other course than to temporise and to make do.

The Medical Officer takes this opportunity of thanking your Sanitary Inspector for his collaboration in the work of the District during the course of the Year.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in Acres) - 1390.

Estimated Population (mid year 1944) 5031.

Number of Inhabited Houses as at 31st December, 1944 - 1470.
(according to Rate Book)

Rateable Value - £31,365.

Sum represented by 1d rate - £125. 7. 6.

Extracts from vital Statistics.

Live Births:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	63.	61.	124.
Illegitimate.	<u>8.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>12.</u>
Totals	<u>71.</u>	<u>65.</u>	<u>136.</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population - 27.0

" " " " " " " - England & Wales - 16.5

Still Births:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	-	1.	1.
Illegitimate.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals.	<u>-</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>1.</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births = 7.

<u>Deaths:-</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	35.	24.	59.

Death rate per 1,000 of population = 11.7

" " " " " " " - England & Wales - 12.1

Infantile Mortality :-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births = 44.0

" " " " " " " - England & Wales = 49.0

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births = 48.0

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births = -

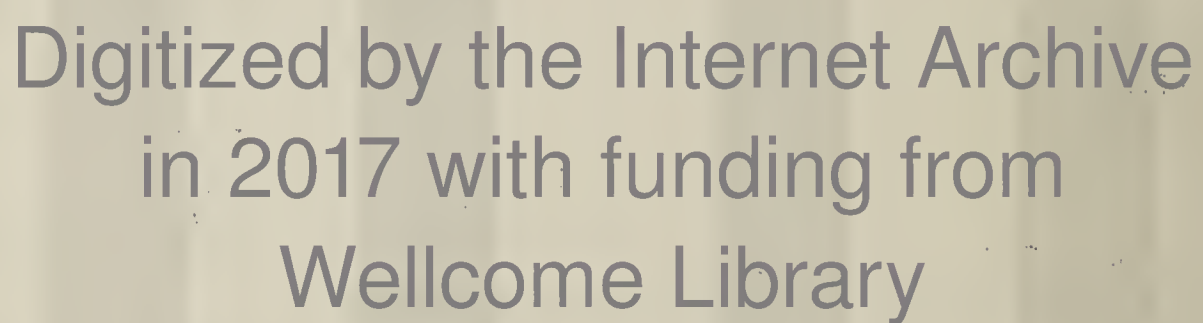
Total number of Infant Deaths	- Legitimate	=	6.
	Illegitimate	=	<u>-</u>
	Total	=	<u>6.</u>

Deaths from :-

Cancer (all ages)	-	10.
Measles (all ages)	-	2.
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	2.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-

Maternal Mortality.

Under this heading there was one death.



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Chief causes of death.

Tuberculosis (all forms)	2.
Not. Infectious Disease	6.
Cancer	10.
Intra cranial lesions	4.
Heart Disease	16.
Respiratory Disease	6.
Nephritis	4.
Violence	2.

AMBULANCE.

No change has been made in this joint service which provides for the Urban, the Rural, and part of the Newcastle District. This service functions well and there have been no complaints.

SCAVENGING.

Again no change has been made. Approximately two thirds of the refuse deposited at the tips is conveyed in Council vehicles. The whole system is closely supervised and controlled.

SALVAGE.

Regular reports are made of the returns of collections. This is under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. The whole scheme is run at a profit.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

During the year, in accordance with the provisions of the Rat and Mouse Destruction Infestation Order 1943, a survey of the District was made to discover the extent of serious rat infestation. It was found that in no part of the Area could it be said that there were major infestations. Where minor invasions were discovered these were of such nature that their control presented little difficulty and eradication of the pest seemed likely. Of these minor infestations two areas appeared to present conditions suitable for the natural habitat of rodents viz., in districts near to banks of streams and around the area of Council tipping. In this latter case the assistance of the County Extermination Officer was required.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The District continues to be served by the local private undertaking. There have been no complaints in the course of the year. The water is of good quality as shown by reports and is chlorinated. The quantity is plentiful and constant. In the town standpipes serve only 6% of the houses supplied, the remainder having a supply laid on to each house.

SWIMMING BATHS.

These continue to be an attractive recreational feature and are well patronised. In addition to civilians use of these facilities are made by service personnel. The water used is chlorinated.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE.

During the course of the year inspections of a few properties have revealed the presence of faulty drainage, inadequate cesspits and in some instances complete absence of proper drainage facilities. Owners have been required to remedy these defections and in some instances repairs have been carried out.

Over the Council's collection system no major fault has arisen although a sinkage in the Smithfield Road occurred and some flooding at Frogmore Lane necessitated some repairs and alterations. In the case of the latter, a new storm water sewer was provided.

At the Disposal Works working conditions have been satisfactory and no difficulties have arisen in this part or in the area leading to the works.

HOUSING.

There has been a considerable frequency of complaints of properties falling into disrepair and so far as possible your Sanitary Inspector has been in touch with the Owners requiring them to maintain an adequate standard of repair. Many of such complaints have come from houses which have been condemned and are still in use or from others which in normal times would have been scheduled.

While the best must be made of what/^{houses}are now available the need for future development has guided the Council to seek the advice of an expert in housing and to limit the period of licence where permission has been given for the adaption of properties which, formerly, had not been intended for living purposes.

The presence of caravans, particularly at the Show Ground, has been a matter of concern. Frequent inspections have been made and generally it has been found on such occasions that the standard of hygiene adopted leaves much to be desired. The owner of the Grounds has been required to provide reasonable forms of sanitation and means of final disposal of refuse and excrement but the methods adopted have been primitive and constitute a danger in that part of the urban area adjoining. No solution will have been found until the owner decides either to exclude this field from caravan and such dwellers or installs a proper form of lavatory system and refuse collection.

Application was made for the inspection of the Common Lodging House, not now licenced, and your Officer instructed the new tenant as to the repairs which would be necessary before the Council would be prepared to allow a reopening for lodging house purposes. No further steps have been taken by the Applicant in this matter.

MILK & DAIRIES.

No. of TT Producers	Nil.
No. of Accredited Producers	2.
No. of Pasteurised licences	Nil.

Regular inspection has been made of premises used for the keeping of cows and the production of milk and in such cases where repairs and lime washing was necessary notice has been given to the occupier.

Application has been made for the licencing of premises for bottling of milk and on inspection permission was granted for this work to be done on a disused mill site. It is not anticipated, however, that these premises will be used for long as a move to a more central situation is contemplated.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The District continues to be served from the central abattoir at Whitchurch, the meat sent in being subject to local inspection. Local premises used for the manufacture and preparation of foodstuffs have been closely supervised and such repairs and cleansing have been required as necessary. Among foods brought to notice for inspection such tinned goods as vegetables, dried milk, pork and marmalade have been condemned and confiscated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and allied diseases.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of deaths:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>
	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	
Diphtheria.	3.	16.	2.
Measles.	80.	8.	2.
Whooping Cough.	9.	4.	2.
Scarlet Fever.	7.	-	-
Pneumonia.	4.	4.	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1.	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4.	-	-

Incidence of disease in the various age groups.

<u>Years.</u>	<u>Diphtheria.</u>		<u>Measles.</u>		<u>Whooping Cough.</u>		<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
0.	-	-	1.	1.	1.	2.	-	-
1.	-	-	4.	4.	1.	2.	-	-
3.	-	1.	12.	6.	-	1.	-	1.
5.	-	-	23.	20.	1.	1.	3.	1.
10.	1.	-	1.	-	-	-	1.	-
15.	-	-	1.	1.	-	-	-	-
25.	-	1.	1.	-	-	-	-	1.

Pneumonia.

<u>Years.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
5.	1.	-
15.	2.	1.

Scabies.

A limited number of cases of this disease came to notice and were treated, either at the Welfare Centre or in their homes. No cases were sent to the Clinic at Newport which was instituted for the benefit of all Authorities in the North East Salop Area.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Bi-annual return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the period ending December 31st, 1943, was as follows :-

	Age under 5 years.	5 years & over but under 15 years.	Total.
Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation between 1st Jan. & 31st Dec., 1943.	61.	59.	120.
Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's area at 31st Dec. 1943.	525.	887.	
Percentage of child population considered to be immunised at 31st Dec. 1943.	63.6	89.5	

The clinical side of this scheme for diphtheria prophylaxis continues to be administered by the County Health Department and the majority of children are treated in this manner. A few parents, however, continue to prefer to entrust this work to the private doctor.

Tuberculosis.

The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st 1943 and the comparative numbers for 1941 and 1942 are as follows:

	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.	
1943.	10.	12.	4.	7.	33.
1942.	11.	12.	5.	7.	35.
1941.	10.	10.	5.	6.	31.

No new cases were added to the registered during the year.

DEATH RATES.

	<u>Market Drayton.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
Death Rate from pulmonary T.B. per 1000 population.	.39	.50x
Death Rate - non-pulmonary T.B. per 1000 population.	-	.11x
Total Death rate (all forms)	.39	.61x

(N.B. x indicates provisional figures)

2 cases, only, died, 1 in the male pulmonary 25/35 age group.
1 " female " " " "

Cancer.

The number of deaths from cancer in 1943 was 10.
(5 males and 5 females)

	<u>Market Drayton.</u> 1987.	<u>England & Wales.</u> 1723.
<u>DEATH RATE</u> per 1000000 living.		

11/8/44.

W.A.M. STEWART.

